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EDITED BY

J. E. HARTING, F.L.S., F.Z.S.,

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

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## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

BY THE EDITOR.

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EXACTLY twenty years ago, on the death of the late Edward Newman, who founded 'The Zoologist' in 1843, and edited it until 1876, I undertook at the request of his son, Mr. T. P. Newman, and by desire of many of the contributors, to act as Editor of this Journal. For twenty years I have endeavoured to discharge the duties which thus devolved upon me to the best of my ability, and the task has been made a pleasant one by the cordial support which I have received on all sides from friendly correspondents. Had there been no other occupation for my leisure hours, I would have gladly continued in office, and worked with what energy I possess to carry on the editorship. Increase of years, however, has brought increase of work in other directions, and the demands now made upon my time have shown the desirability, if not the necessity, of relinquishing some portion of the work in hand. In no other way can I see a prospect of being able to accomplish what I have long contemplated, namely, the publication of new editions of my 'Hand-book of British Birds,' 'The Birds of Middlesex,' 'Hints on the Management of Hawks,' and the preparation of an original work on 'British Quadrupeds,' for which I have been collecting material ever since 1874, when the second edition of Bell's standard work was published.

My first duty being to the learned Society which I have the honour to serve, everything must give place to the official work

which is daily cast upon me. Such other work as I may be able to accomplish can only be undertaken before that official work commences, or after it has ended.

Under these circumstances I must reluctantly resign the editorship of 'The Zoologist,' and in doing so I desire to express my warmest thanks to the many friends who have helped to lighten my labours. Without such assistance as I have received from them it would have been impossible for me to carry on the undertaking to the present time.

In placing the editorial pen in the hands of my successor, the accomplished naturalist, Mr. W. L. Distant, I can only wish him that measure of support which has been so long accorded to myself, and express the hope that under his guidance 'The Zoologist'—"that storehouse of information on British Zoology"—may long continue to flourish.





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